

Senate, April 1, 1998. The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. DAILY, 33rd DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RECYCLED CONTENT OF NEWSPRINT, PURCHASE OF PAPER PRODUCTS BY STATE AGENCIES AND DISPOSAL OF GRASS CLIPPINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Commissioner of
2 Environmental Protection shall adopt alternative
3 standards for the specifications provided in
4 sections 22a-256n and 22a-256o of the general
5 statutes if he determines, upon receipt of
6 documentation from the Northeast Recycling
7 Council, that such specifications are not
8 achievable which determination shall be made not
9 less than once annually. Such alternative
10 standards shall be in effect during any period of
11 time in which the commissioner determines that the
12 publishing or printing industry is unable to
13 obtain sufficient amounts of runable newsprint
14 containing recycled fiber at a price comparable to
15 the price for virgin newsprint or is unable to
16 find such newsprint within a reasonable time.

17 Sec. 2. Section 4a-67f of the general
18 statutes is repealed and the following is
19 substituted in lieu thereof:

20 (a) The Commissioner of Administrative
21 Services shall revise the specifications for

22 printing and writing paper purchased by the state
23 to (1) incorporate the standards provided for in
24 federal Executive Order No. 12873 and any
25 regulations or guidelines promulgated by the
26 United States Environmental Protection Agency to
27 carry out the purposes of said order OR (2)
28 PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE AND USE BY STATE AGENCIES
29 OF PAPER COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF MATERIALS
30 MANUFACTURED USING PROCESSES WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE
31 HARVESTING OF TREES OR WHICH ARE OTHERWISE DERIVED
32 ENTIRELY FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN TREES.

33 (b) The commissioner may provide for
34 alternative standards in such specifications if he
35 determines that (1) a satisfactory level of
36 competition does not exist with regard to the
37 market for a particular paper item specified in
38 such standards, (2) a particular paper item is not
39 available within a reasonable time period or (3)
40 the available items fail to meet reasonable
41 performance standards established by the agency
42 for which such items are being procured.

43 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 22a-208v of
44 the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of
45 public act 97-102, is repealed and the following
46 is substituted in lieu thereof:

47 (c) After October 1, 1998, or six months
48 after the commissioner adopts such regulations,
49 whichever is sooner, no resources recovery
50 facility or solid waste facility permitted under
51 this chapter, other than a municipal or commercial
52 composting facility, may accept SIGNIFICANT
53 QUANTITIES OF grass clippings for disposal.

54 ENV COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 0 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 439

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Cost, Can Be Absorbed and Indeterminate Cost, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Potential Cost Savings, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Departments of Environmental Protection and Administrative Services

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The passage of this bill would result in minimal costs to the Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Administrative Services (DAS) that would be absorbed within existing resources. DEP would be required to adopt alternative recycled fiber standards, and DAS would be required to revise the standards for paper purchased by the State by providing for the use of paper composed entirely of materials that do not involve the harvesting of trees. This results in a minimal workload increase, and in minimal, absorbable costs. Indeterminate costs would result to the extent that paper composed of alternate materials is purchased. This paper is currently 10-15% more expensive than other paper.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: Specifying that the ban on disposing of grass clippings at resource recovery and other solid waste disposal facilities applies to significant quantities, and not all grass clippings, would continue to allow for flexibility for municipalities in disposal methods and a potential savings of costs.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 439

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECYCLED CONTENT OF NEWSPRINT,
PURCHASE OF PAPER PRODUCTS BY STATE AGENCIES AND
DISPOSAL OF GRASS CLIPPINGS**

SUMMARY: Current law requires newspaper publishers as a group to increase the amount of recycled fiber that their newsprint must contain according to a statutory schedule. This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to adopt alternative recycled fiber standards if he determines that the specifications are not achievable as documented by the Northeast Recycling Council. He must make this determination yearly. The alternative standards are effective during any period in which the commissioner determines that either the newspaper publishing or printing industry is unable to obtain sufficient amounts of runable newsprint containing recycled fiber at a price comparable to virgin or is unable to find it within a reasonable time.

The bill specifies that the ban on disposing of grass clippings at resource recovery and certain other solid waste disposal facilities applies to disposing of "significant quantities" of clippings, not all clippings. By law, the ban goes into effect October 1, 1998 or six months after the adoption of DEP regulations, whichever is sooner.

Current law requires the commissioner of administrative services to revise the specifications for state printing and writing paper to incorporate the federal standards. Under the bill, he may either incorporate these standards or require state agencies to use paper composed entirely of material which does not involve harvesting trees or is derived from sources other than trees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

BACKGROUND**Newsprint**

Under the law, if the DEP determines that publishers as a group did not meet the scheduled amount of recycled fiber in their newsprint, then each publisher must meet the scheduled amounts individually. For the year ending December 31, 1999, newsprint must be at least 45% recycled fiber; thereafter it must be 50% or more.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0